

---

## OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5070

### ***AN ACT CONCERNING VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND AMBULANCE COMPANIES AND THE DEFINITION OF EMPLOYER UNDER THE STATE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT.***

#### **SUMMARY:**

This bill requires a volunteer fire department or volunteer ambulance company to comply with the state's Occupational Safety and Health Act (Conn-OSHA), unless it can demonstrate that it is under federal OSHA jurisdiction. By law, Conn-OSHA governs workplace safety for the state and its political subdivisions; thus, non-governmental volunteer fire departments and ambulance companies are not considered under its jurisdiction. They are not covered by federal OSHA unless they are privately chartered and have paid employees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2014

#### **BACKGROUND**

##### ***Related Case***

In *Mayfield v. Goshen Volunteer Fire Company* (301 Conn. 739 (2011)), the state Supreme Court ruled that a volunteer fire company that was privately chartered and not under the control of a municipality was not a political subdivision of the state and therefore not subject to Conn-OSHA jurisdiction.

#### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 10 Nay 0 (03/18/2014)